

# the road to the cross

## Week 3 - Trial

mark 14-16

1. From what you know of legal trials (perhaps from TV shows), what are some of the things that are required for a person to be found guilty?

*Intro question to get them thinking about the concept of legal trials, and in particular what is required for a person to be found guilty.*

*As we continue in our series on Jesus' final week on earth, we've seen already that Jesus is aware that his time is nearly up. People have had different responses to Jesus, and even those close to him have wrestled with remaining true to him. Last week Jesus was arrested, and now the story continues...*

### **Read Mark 14:53-65**

2. As a group, act out the story of these verses. The following information may help you:

**High Priest** – The main religious official in the Jewish religion. He was a very powerful political leader, who was also the head of the Sanhedrin (see below).  
**Chief Priests** – Other high ranking religious officials in the Jewish religion.  
**Sanhedrin** – The ruling council of Jews made up of seventy men. They would judge on matters of whether or not someone had broken Jewish laws. They could not sentence people to death however, without the permission of the Roman governor.

*Allow them some decent time to think through the passage and act it out themselves – try not to help them too much with this (they'll get more out of it if they work it out themselves). Large groups may like to split into a few groups, and each group can then present back.*

3. In what ways is Jesus under a new set of pressures in this section of events?

*He has now been hauled before an informal council that is trying to find a way to have him put to death. People are making false and inaccurate accusations against him.*

4. Imagine that you were on the jury in this trial. Does the evidence that is being presented point towards Jesus being guilty or not guilty? Why? (Hint: check out John 2:18-21)

*Not guilty your honour! There is an incredible amount of doubt about the accusations that are being made. They do not even match up with one another. John 2 shows what Jesus **actually** said about the temple. He was speaking of his body, not the man-made temple.*

5. What is it that finally convinces the jury of Jesus' 'guilt'?

*Jesus says that he is 'the Christ'. This is a huge statement for someone to make.*

- a. Why do you think that this would have caused such a big fuss?

*To them it is seen as blasphemous as Jesus has just claimed to be God himself.*

**Read Isaiah 53:4-9**

6. In what ways are the actions of the man in this passage similar to the actions of Jesus before the Sanhedrin in Mark 14?

*We see incredible similarities between the actions of the man in Isaiah, and Jesus in the Gospel of Mark. Ultimately we know that it is Jesus who fulfilled through his actions what was prophesied in the Old Testament.*

*Jesus promised his people (in Isaiah 53 and other passages in the Old Testament) that he would send a saviour to rescue them from their sins. Jesus came as that promised saviour (or 'Messiah', or 'Christ') both for God's people back then and for us now.*

7. Read Mark 14:61-62 again. If Jesus truly is the Christ, then what does this mean:

- a. For our understanding of how our rebellion against God is dealt with?

*You should aim to draw out here the fact that we can be confident that our sin has been dealt with. Jesus as the Christ is the way for us to salvation.*

- b. For the kind of relationship that we can have with Jesus?

*If Jesus is the Christ then it means that he is also alive now. We are able to have a personal relationship with him. He is not just a theoretical idea, but someone who can have a genuine impact on the way that we live.*

8. Reflect – does your life demonstrate that you are living in a way which acknowledges that Jesus is the Christ? In what ways?

*A chance for them to think personally about what Jesus means to them, and the impact he has on their lives. You might like to get some people to share their answers here.*

*Pray as a group to thank God for sending Jesus as his promised saviour. Pray that we would be impacted by what Jesus has done for us, and that we would live in a way which reflects this.*